

EU Research Trends - July 2016

This month you can read more about Brexit, Innovation, the EU budget for 2017, the New Skills Agenda, the Common Exploitation Booster as well as the new Slovak Presidency and much more.

Trends

Brexit

The new UK Prime Minister Teresa May clearly stated that Brexit means Brexit, but when and how still remains open. The Treaty stipulates that two years after article 50 has been triggered, the Member State concerned must formally withdraw from the EU, an article that by the way was introduced by the British at the negotiations during the Convention on the future of the EU. While article 50 has still to be triggered, the British commissioner has resigned, some British rapporteurs in the European Parliament has withdrawn their rapporteurship and lately UK has officially resigned from running the Presidency of the European Council in the second half of 2017.

In a [statement](#) of 29 June by the Heads of State or Government of 27 Member States, as well as the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission, it was confirmed that *until the UK leaves the EU, EU law continues to apply to and within the UK, both when it comes to rights and obligations*. This includes the eligibility of UK legal entities to participate and receive funding in Horizon 2020 actions. Both UKRO and the Ministry of Universities and Science are collecting evidence of cases where Horizon 2020 partnering is impacted on by the current situation, including where consortia are no longer sure about the inclusion of a UK partner or the UK's status.

It is too early to speculate on the future implications of the UK leaving the EU. For the time being it is business as usual. This will most likely be the case in 2016 and 2017.

The EU's relations with Switzerland hints that in 2018 one should look closer into what is at stake and how the future EU-UK relation is likely to look like. After the failure to comply with the free movement of citizens (the extension with Croatia), Switzerland's association agreement was limited to the first pillar of H2020. Participation in the second and third pillars of H2020 is still possible but fully financed from Bern. Already signed contracts remained unchanged, when these changes came into effect, but recently the association agreement with Switzerland has been tightened and now [reads](#):

”If Switzerland does not ratify the Protocol on the extension to Croatia of the Free Movement of Persons Agreement between the EU and Switzerland before 9 February 2017, the Agreement associating Switzerland to parts of Horizon 2020 will be terminated with a retroactive effect as of 31 December 2016. In this case, for grant agreements signed in 2017 (including grant agreements following 2016 calls), Swiss entities will be treated as entities from a non-associated country. However, if Switzerland ratifies the Protocol by the above mentioned deadline, the association Agreement will continue to apply and will be expanded to cover the whole of Horizon 2020, Euratom Programme and activities carried out by Fusion for Energy from 1 January 2017. Regarding actions under Art. 185 and Art. 187 initiatives in Horizon 2020, Switzerland will be treated as an associated country and Swiss entities will be treated as entities from an associated country and they will be eligible for participation and funding in accordance with the conditions set out in the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation in conjunction with the relevant basic acts”. Britain is not to be compared to Switzerland. This merely underlines that access to the Single Market requires full acceptance of all four freedoms (persons, goods, capital and services) and that not complying with all four of them has consequences.

Further information: [RCUK Statement on international collaboration post EU referendum](#)

UK universities in the face of Brexit

The top six UK universities are all involved in Horizon2020 projects and these projects represent a financial value of almost 500 mio EUR. Hence it is no surprise that all UK universities are now close to a state of panic in terms of ensuring that these projects continue unhindered as well as keeping the universities within the scope of also future EU funding programmes. Read the full article [here](#).

More than 100 prospective European students have withdrawn applications to study at a Welsh university following the European referendum result.

To read the article in full please follow this [link](#)

Four documents on innovation

Innovation policy review report

In June 2015, Robert Madelin was commissioned by the President of the European Commission to conduct an innovation policy review. The overall quality and breadth of contributions underlines both a general recognition that innovation is critical to Europe's future and a willingness to see a truly European collective effort in the global innovation race. The report concludes that innovation is central to the priorities of this Commission and that there is room for a clearer vision, a closer

cooperation and a more ambitious pro-innovation leadership across all European actors.

- Read the [blog post](#)
- Read the [EPSC \(European Political Strategy Centre\) note](#)
- [Download the full review](#)

Open Innovation 2.0 (OI2) Yearbook - edition 2016

The 2016 edition of the Open Innovation 2.0 Yearbook focuses on real-world OI2 business, research and policy examples. The publication was presented for the first time during the OI2 Conference (23-24 May) in Amsterdam.

OI2 [Yearbook 2016](#)

EU Innovation Policy

The European Parliament Research Service has published a publication aiming at providing an overview of the evolution of European Union innovation policy. The paper focuses on the progressive integration of a wide range of policies and instruments into the EU innovation policy mix and reflects on some barriers limiting the development of a EU innovation policy.

[Part I](#) - Building the EU innovation policy mix

[Part II](#) - EU policies and instruments supporting innovation

European Innovation Scoreboard 2016

The [European Innovation Scoreboard](#) - previously *Innovation Union Scoreboard* - provides a comparative analysis of innovation performance in EU Member States, other European countries, and regional neighbours. It assesses relative strengths and weaknesses of national innovation systems and helps countries identify areas they need to address.

The [Regional Innovation Scoreboard](#) is a regional extension of the European Innovation Scoreboard, assessing the innovation performance of European regions on a limited number of indicators.

The EU is continuing to catch up with global innovation leaders. But innovation is still held back by low business investment and restrictive framework conditions, notably affecting SMEs.

Sweden is once more the EU innovation leader, followed by Denmark, Finland, Germany and the Netherlands. The fastest growing innovators are Latvia, Malta, Lithuania, the Netherlands and the UK.

Draft EU Budget 2017: 10.3 billion EUR for Horizon 2020, 2 billion EUR for Erasmus+

On 30 June 2016, the European Commission published its proposal for the 2017 EU budget including the annual programme budget for Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+.

Overall [the draft budget](#) amounts to 157.7 billion EUR in commitments, a 1.7 % increase compared to this year's budget, and 134.9 billion EUR in payments, a 6.2 % decrease compared to 2016. With its proposal, the Commission aims to support economic recovery and address the security and humanitarian challenges facing the Union.

Under Erasmus+, 2 billion EUR in commitments are allocated to all levels of education, training, youth and sports and there are 1.9 billion EUR in payments. This represents a 16.2 % increase in commitments compared to 2016 and a 4.5 % increase in payments.

For Horizon 2020, the draft budget foresees 10.3 billion EUR in commitments and 10.2 billion EUR in payments which represents a 7.9 % increase in commitments compared to 2016 and a 1.2 % increase in payments. This is a positive sign as the overall funding of Horizon 2020 for the period until 2020 was cut last year by 2.2 billion EUR (from 77 billion EUR to 74.8 billion EUR) in order to establish the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI).

Slovak EU Presidency announces its priorities

On 1 July, Slovakia officially took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU for the second semester of 2016. The Presidency programme includes four priorities: an economically strong Europe, a modern single market, sustainable asylum and migration policies, and a globally engaged Europe.

The consequences of the UK referendum and the discussion on the future of the EU represent additional challenges for the Presidency. The European Summit 16. September is dedicated to EU's future after Brexit.

For more information about the Slovak EU Presidency, [please consult the official website](#).

Overlooked funding facility - The Common Exploitation Booster

The Common Exploitation Booster is a common support service which helps former or ongoing R&I projects under FP7 and Horizon 2020 to bridge the gap between creating research outputs and ensuring their exploitation by providing a series of tailored services. The services are free for the projects (except for covering of own travel expenses) and the consultancy is offered under confidentiality agreements. Selection of projects and coordination of services is managed by the Horizon 2020 Common Support Center of the European Commission. Consult the Exploitation Booster [website](#) to see more.

Impact of the UK referendum on the COST programme

Statement of the President of the COST Association, Dr Ángeles Rodríguez-Peña:
The UK referendum and a potential future Brexit will have no direct impact on the COST programme. The COST programme is run by an independent, intergovernmental organisation, of which the UK has been a full member since the programme was created in 1971. And this status is independent from European Union membership. There are no consequences to be expected, neither with regard to the organisation of the [Open Call](#), nor with regard to our [COST Actions](#).

The day-to-day business will continue on the grounds of our existing contracts with the EU Commission, which are the framework partnership agreement and the specific grant agreements, until a new situation would arise in context of Article 50.

As highlighted by Presidents Schulz, Tusk, Juncker and Prime Minister Rutte on June 24 in a common statement, "we hope to have the UK as a close partner of the European Union in the future. (...) Any agreement, which will be concluded with the United Kingdom as a third country, will have to reflect the interests of both sides and be balanced in terms of rights and obligations." "Currently, over 2200 scientists from the UK participate in activities of our COST networks, and we are very happy about their excellent contributions to advancing research in Europe, making it a competitive marketplace and increasing the well-being of our societies".

E-infrastructures: making Europe the best place for research and innovation

EU-funded e-Infrastructures are a key component of the European digital research and innovation landscape. They address the needs of European researchers and innovators for transnational communication networks, high performance and high throughput computing, multidisciplinary data management and collaborative scientific software. They empower researchers with easy and secure online access to facilities and resources and enable them to deliver reusable and reproducible research and innovation outputs. During the period 2014-2020, the EU will have invested more than 850 million EUR in digital infrastructures through its Horizon 2020 e-Infrastructure programme.

EU-funded e-infrastructures play a fundamental role in the life of European researchers and innovators. This [booklet](#) illustrates that by showing how e-Infrastructure projects funded under the Horizon 2020 work programme 2014-2015 are helping researchers tackle the challenges posed by one specific societal challenge.

Horizon 2020 Mid-term review

The European Parliament is preparing an own initiative report on the implementation of FP7 and Horizon 2020 and has appointed Spanish socialist Soledad Cabezon Ruiz as the rapporteur. A hearing is planned to take place on the 10. November.

Exchange of views with Mr Carlos Moedas as part of the Structured Dialogue

European Parliament Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), Brussels 12 July 2016

At the ITRE meeting on Tuesday 12 July, Carlos Moedas highlighted the following two topics: 1) The European Innovation Council and 2) The European Open Science Cloud. The state of play of the EIC

First of all, Moedas made it clear that the Commission wants to do more for innovation. Horizon 2020 is the first framework programme that focuses on innovation but much more is needed in order to make sure that Europe can develop breakthrough innovation in the years to come. Moedas underlined that more visibility is needed. Many of the most innovative SME's are still not attracted to funding from the framework programme, largely because they do not know about the possibilities for European support. These are the reasons that the Commission presented the idea of an EIC. As many times before, the Commissioner pointed out that it is not about creating a new institutional body, nor about switching budgets from research to innovations but about how we can simplify and increase the support for innovation at a European level. The Commission focuses on making a couple of changes already by now. In relation to the SME Instrument in Horizon 2020, the Commission wants to make it more bottom-up. They will try not to focus as much on the different thematic areas in the instrument as hitherto but instead make the SME Instrument fully bottom up with continuously open calls. Besides, the Commission needs to rethink the way they select projects and make an effort to follow up on projects.

At the meeting, Moedas presented a list of to do's regarding the development of the EIC:

- The need to have a group of advisors
- Revision of the Horizon 2020 programme: the Work Programme should be made simpler
- Make the SME Instrument fully bottom-up with continuously open calls
- Changing the evaluation criteria so that they focus more on market creating innovation
- Revision and acceleration of the evaluation process in order to obtain faster results
- Provide access to mentors that can help the innovative companies
- Test new scale up instruments
- The need to have more real time data and intelligence

Furthermore, Moedas highlighted the importance of creating awareness and branding in terms of innovation, which was so well done in terms of the European Research Council, ERC.

The European Open Science Cloud

The Commission adapted a communication in April, which focused on how the Commission wants to set out a path to digitise European industry. The official press release is available here (http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-1407_en.htm). As part of this package, the Commission wants to make open science the rule. The idea of an open science cloud is a way to obtain that ambition. The idea is to share knowledge between European researchers in order to make it possible to develop new products. The Commission has evidence that by opening the data, it can create an added value of more than one billion EUR a year. For that reason, the Commission has stated that all data produced by Horizon 2020 should be open by default by 2017.

The European Commission continues to gear up on cybersecurity - new public private partnership

According to a recent survey at least 80 % of EU companies have experienced one or more cybersecurity incidents over the last year and with a global rise of 38 % of security incidents, the EU is rightly alarmed by both the threat and the damage such incidents inflict on EU companies and society. On this backdrop, the Commission has on 5th July signed an agreement with industry on cybersecurity and thereby steps up efforts to tackle cyber-threats. It is a new public private partnership, which is expected to trigger 1.8 billion of investment by 2020 and it is part of a series of new initiatives to better equip the EU against cyber-attacks and to strengthen competitiveness of the sector. Read the full PR [here](#).

Endocrine disrupters

76 chemical substances could be withdrawn from the European market due to the risk they present. This is the conclusion of an impact study into endocrine disruptors published on 30st June. A study which assessed a total of 630 substances.

The European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility (ENSSER) and the European body for action against pesticides, PAN-Europe, have sent a letter to Environment and Agriculture Ministers calling on them to take stricter measures than those proposed by the Commission and thereby also immediately making the new European criteria for defining endocrine disruptors controversial. The Commission proposed this definition based on that of the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) for identifying these substances that disrupt the hormonal system. In their plea to the EU ministers concrete demands are put

forward: more time; the withdrawal of a negligible risk reference; and a broader definition of endocrine disruptors incl. immediate testing. One out of eight substances is potentially under threat. The EU position can be consulted [here](#).

Commission launches three Horizon Prizes for energy innovation

The European Commission launched three Horizon Prizes to encourage innovation and find solutions to challenges in the area of energy. Worth a total of 3.25 million EUR and funded under Horizon 2020, the prizes will reward innovative approaches to integrating solar energy into historical buildings, using renewable energy in hospitals, and developing products that help cut emissions by reusing carbon dioxide (CO₂). The 750.000 EUR Horizon Prize [Photovoltaics meets history](#) addresses the technical constraints in integrating photovoltaic energy sources in historical urban districts. The prize will be awarded to the most suitable architectural and aesthetical design for a photovoltaic energy system which at the same time presents an optimal technical solution.

The 1 million EUR Horizon Prize [Low carbon hospital](#) will contribute to finding solutions for using 100 % renewable energy sources for heat and power generation in hospital buildings. The award will go to an innovative solution integrating several technologies into one energy system, which can guarantee uninterrupted energy supply.

The 1.5 million EUR Horizon Prize [CO₂ reuse](#) will be awarded to the developer of an innovative product that reuses carbon dioxide (CO₂), making a genuine contribution to achieving net emissions reductions.

Contestants can apply until 26 September 2018 for the Photovoltaics meets history contest and until 3 April 2019 for the two others. Applicants have total freedom in the approach they take to deliver the breakthrough solution. The rules of the contests are available on the [Horizon Prizes website](#).

New Skills Agenda - 10 actions in education equipping Europe for the future

The European Commission has adopted a new Skills Agenda for Europe, as a further policy support measure for boosting Europe's employability, competitiveness and growth, in line with the Europe 2020 strategy. The skills landscape in Europe continues to display mismatches between skills and labour market demands, high numbers of people with low literacy and numeracy skills, even more without adequate digital skills and a job market with seemingly ever increasing demands. To support the development of skills, especially transversal skills, and help address the skills mismatch as well as anticipate the needs of the labour market, the European Commission put forward the action plan consisting of 10 points which are to provide

a framework for dealing with these issues at different levels and across education systems in the EU.

The 10 proposed action points are as follows:

1. A Skills Guarantee - addressing minimum level of literacy, numeracy and digital skills and progress towards an upper secondary qualification.
2. A review of the European Qualifications Framework for its better understanding and use
3. The "Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition" - focusing on the cooperation between education and employment and policy makers on creating a pool of talents and on equipping the labour force with adequate digital skills
4. The 'Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills' to improve skills intelligence and address skills shortages in specific economic sectors
5. A "Skills Profile Tool for Third Country Nationals" to support profiling of skills and qualifications of asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants
6. A revision of the Europass Framework - for more user-friendliness of tools and a better overview of skills and qualifications
7. Enhancing work-based learning opportunities for VET learners and promoting VET as a first choice among learners
8. A review of the Recommendation on Key Competences towards more and better acquisition of skills required in today's labour market, especially promoting entrepreneurial and innovation-oriented mind-sets and skills
9. An initiative on graduate tracking to improve information on graduates' experiences in the labour market
10. A proposal to further analyse and exchange best practices on effective ways to address brain drain.

The pressing challenges, as stated, are not only low levels of required skills but equally their insufficient transparency and visibility, hence the proposed revisions of existing frameworks for the assessment and presentation of skills and qualifications. The action plan proposal shows that the need for more systematic data collection has been taken up as well. In addition, two of the 10 proposed actions in the Skills Agenda for Europe stem from the results of the recent [public consultation on the EU's modernisation agenda](#) for higher education, notably points 8 and 9, respectively those pertaining to the key competences and graduate tracking.

As announced in the press release, the first four action points of the Agenda were launched on 10 June while the remaining six will be launched in the course of 2016 and 2017.

[European Commission](#) working document

New Commission app measures internet signal to map connection quality across the EU

netBravo is a crowd-sourcing project designed to gather and share radio spectrum data about mobile telephony coverage, WIFI channel occupancy, broadband and net neutrality connection tests.

The JRC has developed an application that will help EU citizens travelling abroad in Europe to see the quality of Wi-Fi, 4G, 3G, and GSM signals they can get in their surroundings.

'netBravo', allows the user to monitor different variables including signal strength, speed and channel usage, which are then shown in various colours depending on their quality, on a map of Europe.

The application has a strong privacy policy and does not collect any personal data. It is available for [download for both iOS and Android](#) systems.

Horizon 2020 Information Day & Brokerage Event "Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency & Raw Materials

14 September 2016, Brussels

The European Commission is organising an Information Day & Brokerage event on the upcoming [calls for proposals which will be launched in autumn 2016](#).

[Download the draft agenda \(pdf\)](#).

[Registration](#)

Live webcast

The morning plenary sessions and the parallel sessions will be webstreamed live. The links will be published [here](#), and access is free and does not require prior registration.

After the event, video recordings with sound and integrated slide presentations will be made available online, on this [page](#).

2016 Information Day on the Horizon 2020 'Smart cities and communities'

23 September 2016, Charlemagne building, Brussels

The event targets potential applicants to the Smart Cities & Communities topic of the 2016-2017 Horizon 2020 Work Programme '[Cross-cutting activities](#)', and in particular the [2017 call](#).

Presentations will cover the call content and the application procedure. More information and the agenda will follow.

A networking event will take place in the second part of the day.

Registration for the information day is compulsory and free of charge. Please note that due to a limited seat number at the conference venue, maximum two people from the same organisation will be registered.

We encourage you to [register](#) early in order to secure your seat.

You will also have the possibility to follow the event via web streaming and on Twitter using #H2020SCC1.

If you have questions for the speakers, please [send them by email](#) before the event.

We will also take questions by [email](#) and on [Twitter](#) during the event.

Please [contact us](#) for further information.

2016 Information Day on the Horizon 2020 'Smart, green and integrated transport'

28 September 2016, Brussels

The [information day](#) addresses potential applicants to the Horizon 2020 'Smart, green and integrated transport' calls for project proposals under the 2016-2017 Work programme.

Presentations will cover the various topics open for submission and the application procedure, as well as provide detailed information on the calls. A [brokerage event](#) will take place in the afternoon. More information and the agenda will follow on the [event page](#).

[Registration](#) for the information day and the brokerage event is compulsory and free of charge. Please note that due to a limited number at the conference venue, maximum two people from the same organisation will be registered.

Further information

- [Work programme 2016-2017](#)
- [Registration for the information day](#)
- [Registration for the brokerage event](#)
- [Horizon 2020 'Smart, green and integrated transport' challenge](#)
- [Event page](#)

Horizon 2020 Information Day on the Research Public-Private Partnerships

14 October 2016, Brussels, Belgium

The aim of the event is to give the research community an overview of ongoing activities in the following PPPs : Factories of the Future, Energy-efficient Buildings, Sustainable Process Industry and European Green Vehicles Initiative.

Support will be given for the preparation of proposals for the 2017 calls.

The event will be webstreamed and recorded. After the event, all presentations and links to the recordings will be published on this page.

Further information [Online Registration](#) [Info Day Agenda](#) [Area Map](#)

FOOD 2030: Research & Innovation for Tomorrow's Nutrition & Food Systems

High-Level Event, 12-13 October 2016, Brussels

Policy Context

At the 2015 Milan World Expo Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, announced his intention to launch a Food Research Area by World Food Day 2016, presenting a single thematic Research and Innovation narrative built on a number of key Food and Nutrition Security priorities:

1. **NUTRITION:** Reducing hunger and malnutrition, addressing food safety and diet-related disease, and helping citizens adopt sustainable diets and healthy lives
2. **CLIMATE:** Building climate and global change-resilient food systems
3. **CIRCULARITY:** Implementing sustainability and circular economy principles across food systems
4. **INNOVATION:** Boosting innovation and investment, while empowering communities

FOOD 2030 builds on this intention and is a timely EU research and innovation policy response to the recent international policy developments including the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and COP21 commitments.

The FOOD 2030 high level event will provide a platform for dialogue that seeks to build on the political momentum for a coherent research and innovation policy framework for Food and Nutrition Security. The conference is an important step towards boosting future investment in research and innovation in support of impactful nutrition and food systems, research breakthroughs, market-creating and open innovation, open science and multi-actor engagement, building of capacities and skills and strengthening global collaboration for improved research policy alignment.

FOOD 2030 will explore what is needed to transform and future-proof our food systems to be sustainable, resilient, competitive, diverse, responsible and performant in their provision of accessible, healthy and sustainable food and diets for all. Furthermore, FOOD 2030 will investigate how research and innovation systems can be scaled-up to better contribute to the above Food and Nutrition Security priorities.

The pre-conference events will start on the afternoon of 12 October with four parallel participatory workshops, followed by a networking cocktail and the opening of the 'Food Village' showcasing innovative research projects, start-ups and food technologies. In parallel to these FOOD 2030 events, the venue will also host the final conference of the [FP7 FOODSECURE project](#) for the design of consistent and coherent long-term policy strategies for improving food and nutrition security. The official conference of FOOD 2030 will take place on 13 October with the participation of high level officials, industry, entrepreneurs, investors, policy

makers, and civil society organisations. The European Commission will present its FOOD 2030 research and innovation policy stocktaking exercise to be followed by four prospective discussion panels, each exploring how R&I policy should contribute to shaping tomorrow's sustainable food systems, with respect to healthy and sustainable diets, climate resilience and circularity of food systems, user-centric innovation, new business models and investment.

Brokerage event on cryptography

5 September 2016, Paris

You are kindly invited to the brokerage event dedicated to DS-06-2017: Cryptography topic, which is organized by the French NCP's for ICT and Secure Societies with the support of the European Commission, and both ICT and Security NCPs Network - SEREN3 and IDEAL-IST. This event will be held on the 5th of September in Paris. Support host team: UPMC, INRIA, Systematic and Safe Clusters.

The purpose of this workshop is first to discuss the context of this call but above all to give the opportunity for proposers to share with the participants an overview of their products, services, and competencies in the cryptography area. Participants will also be able to present their own proposal concepts. Then, they will be able to meet representatives from SMEs and other organisations during small workshops, in order to exchange ideas with the aim of paving the way for future cooperation.

Agenda

Venue:

[BUSINESS France](#)

Conference room "Letocart"

77 Boulevard Saint Jacques

75014 Paris

France

Participation:

Participation is *free of charge*. However, *registration is mandatory*.

Please register online by 30 August 2016 at the following link:

<http://www.horizon2020.gouv.fr/cryptography-5th-september-2016>

Seats will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis due to the *limited capacity* of the meeting room.

Due to the international character, the language of the event will be English.

Comments or questions should be directed to [Rikke Edsjö](#).